

The Great War 1265th Day

Battle Rages Along North Front in Italy

Gen. Diaz Attempts Three Times to Storm Mountain Slopes

Rolled Back by Foe With Heavy Losses

Austrians Also Repulsed in Attacks on Delta of the Piave

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Bitter fighting developed yesterday between the Brenta and Piave rivers, in Northern Italy, where the Italians on Monday won important successes in their first attack in several weeks. From the Asiago Plateau to the heights of Valdobbiadene assaults and counter assaults, bursts of artillery fire and patrol encounters were frequent. Both the Rome and Vienna War Offices claim to-night the repulse of all enemy efforts to win ground along the mountain front.

On the delta of the Piave the fighting was at times extremely violent also. The Austrians launched fresh counter attacks against the Italian positions east of Capo Sile, but meeting with failure.

The bloodiest struggle of the day on the mountain front took place on the western slopes of Monte Pertica, where the Cesilia River cuts through the mountains west of the bastion of Monte Grappa.

Three Italian Attacks Repulsed

The previous day the Italians had cleared important outposts at the head of the valley and driven northward between Monte Asolone and Monte Pertica, both of which positions are in the enemy's hands. Yesterday counter attacks against the Italian positions were repulsed. Three successive times the Italians charged up the slopes, but each time were rolled back by the deadly fire of the defenders' cannon and machine guns. Vienna reports that the Italian suffered heavy losses in these vain attacks.

Throughout the fighting in this sector the Italians clung to their newly established line north of Monte Coston, however, repelling numerous counter attacks by the enemy and coping vigorously to the artillery bombardments. There seems little doubt that the Italians have materially improved their position in this region and lessened the danger of an Austrian attack on Monte Grappa, the stronghold on which the whole line east of the Brenta hinges.

Asiago Attack Fails

On the Asiago Plateau the Italians attempted one advance movement during the day, to the west of Col del Rosso, but were driven back without obtaining an advantage. South of Monte Pertica the Austrians, however, brought the Italians no success, according to the Teuton statements.

Aerial activity continued strong along the greater part of the front. British aviators drove three hostile airplanes down yesterday. The Italian fliers accounted for a fourth plane and land batteries for a fifth.

Italians Storm Menacing Positions of Enemy

On Mt. Asolone Slope

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Tuesday, Jan. 15.—The action east of the Brenta River yesterday, in which the Italians inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and captured several hundred prisoners and a large amount of war material, began late in the afternoon and was carried out by infantry. It was directed chiefly against Monte Asolone, where the enemy boldly has set up observation posts overlooking the San Lorenzo Valley and the Venetian plain, leading down to Bassano.

From these heights the enemy, backed by his position on Monte Pertica, could dominate the entire Italian front. The Italian batteries being seconded by French artillery on their right. A heavy fog screened the movement as the infantry was ordered to advance. It moved straight up the slope of Monte Asolone through snow, mud and slush. The enemy artillery fire grew more intense as the advance proceeded.

There was no halt until the positions on Monte Asolone were reached and the enemy advance posts, where observations had been conducted, were swept away. Along the whole line the Italians gained a foothold. Under the concentrated fire of the enemy lines they later were withdrawn slightly after having wasted the enemy works.

Austrian forces attempted a number of counter movements without success. The struggle around Monte Asolone continues, but one of the main objects of the Italian attack was to prevent the enemy from attempting to dislodge the enemy from his works to say nothing of the prisoners and material taken.

About the same time an incursion into the enemy trenches was made from the east around Monte Salarolo, where more prisoners and material were captured.

The third bloody fight occurred on the Lower Piave, where the Italians enlarged their position between the Piave and Sile rivers, and beat back a counter attack with heavy loss.

An officer who has just returned from Monte Asolone says that the enemy there made his chief resistance with machine guns and did not have the time to bring any considerable force of infantry into action. When the Italians first reached the crest they found all the enemy soldiers in their winter quarters in log barracks. A large party of one battalion, including one major and two captains, were captured in one of these buildings.

All Berlin Residents Forced To Clear Streets of Snow

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 20 (By Mail).—The first fall of snow in Berlin brought into operation a new regulation compelling citizens to clear not only the sidewalk in front of their houses but a stipulated section of the roadway as well. All were summoned to do their bit, and in flats and apartment houses the porter knocked at the door of each tenant, requiring their assistance.

According to the "Tagblatt," the people took it all in good humor, and soon the streets were full of men, women and children, all shoveling with a will.

Italian Bags 2 Fliers 12,000 Feet in the Air

(By The Associated Press)

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Jan. 16.—Two of the air fights yesterday were particularly moving. Lieutenant St. Caroni, a noted shot, attacked a German machine at 12,000 feet. He crippled the machine at the third shot and put six shots in the head of the aviator and seven in the head of the pilot, the machine and its occupants tumbling in a dizzying spiral.

Later Captain Zohal brought down another machine, when it was seen, just within the enemy line. Twenty Italians in the front trench, seeing the fall of the machine, sprang across the line, destroyed the airplane and captured the aviator and pilot, returning uninjured with their prisoners.

Official Statements

West BRITISH

LONDON, Jan. 16. (NIGHT).—Early this morning the enemy raided one of our posts northwest of St. Quentin. Two of our men are missing.

FRENCH

PARIS, Jan. 16. (DAY).—With the exception of a lively artillery duel in Alsace, between Thure and Doller, there was nothing to report in the course of last night. The number of prisoners taken by the French when they raided the German trenches in the region of Badonvillers yesterday totaled forty, including one aviator.

(NIGHT).—There was slight artillery activity along the whole front. In the region east of St. Die an enemy mine on one of our small posts completely failed.

EASTERN THEATRE, Jan. 15.—There were quite active military operations both sides at the Cerna bend. Enemy patrols were repulsed on the Serbian front.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Jan. 16.—Front of Crown Prince Rupprecht and the German Crown Prince. At the south of Lens the artillery activity increased. There were reconnoitering encounters between the German and British troops. South of Lens the German troops were taken.

Front of Grand Duke Albrecht.—After a night of quiet, the German troops in the region of Grand Duke Albrecht yesterday repulsed the French attacks on their front trenches for a second time. The German troops repulsed the French attacks on their front trenches for a second time.

On Monday night, to the east of Capo Sile, a fierce counter attack was launched by the Italian troops, but was repulsed, and yesterday the artillery activity on both sides was moderate and without any special results.

There was considerable aerial activity along the entire front. British aviators drove down three hostile airplanes and our aviators brought down a fourth. Our anti-aircraft batteries accounted for a fifth.

GERMAN

BERLIN, Jan. 16. (DAY).—Between the Italian and German troops there were many lively artillery duels, especially violent in the region of Monte Asolone. The Italians repulsed three hostile airplanes and our aviators brought down a fourth. Our anti-aircraft batteries accounted for a fifth.

On the western slope of Monte Pertica several attacks delivered by the Italians yesterday were repulsed.

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AUSTRIAN

VIENNA, Jan. 16.—On the Asiago plateau an enemy advance west of Col del Rosso was repulsed. East of the Brenta the Italians did not continue their fruitless attacks until afternoon. On the western slope of Monte Pertica the enemy stormed three times against the Italian positions, but each time was repulsed with heavy losses.

South of Monte Fontana Secca the enemy attempts to attack were suppressed from the very start.

On the lower Piave River there were frequent lively artillery duels.

Italy Gives Imposing Greeting to Red Cross

Notables of Nation, Gathered at Rome, Welcome Colonel Perkins

ROME, Jan. 15.—Members of the Italian government, Senators, Deputies and representatives of the municipality and political, commercial and artistic associations gathered at the capitol today to welcome Robert P. Perkins, head of the permanent Red Cross Commission in Italy, and to give an imposing demonstration in favor of the United States.

Prince Colonna, Mayor of Rome, greeted Colonel Perkins and the other members of the mission and expressed Italy's appreciation of the great work of the American Red Cross. Senator Guglielmo Marconi, recently appointed head of the Italian mission to America, said:

"I have lived long in your great and beautiful country and have learned to love and appreciate the great qualities of the American people, their idealism and innate love of liberty and fair play. It is time to destroy the false that Americans are too highly commercialized to allow themselves to be swayed by pure ideals."

"We could repay the help given us in money in kind, but the noble impulse which has driven thousands of the best American men and hundreds of noble American women to abandon lucrative positions in answer to the call of our common humanity, that we cannot repay."

Finance Minister Nitti and Thomas Nelson Page, the American Ambassador, also addressed the gathering.

Deny Marconi Will Succeed di Cellere

Rome Declares Italian Ambassador Will Remain in Washington

(Staff Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Official denial was made here today of a recent Rome dispatch stating that Guglielmo Marconi had been appointed Italian High Commissioner in the United States, relieving the Italian Ambassador in Washington, Count di Cellere, of the duties of commissioner.

It was in anticipation of the creation of an inter-Allied economic council, which was to sit in Europe, that the Italian government combined the offices of ambassador and high commissioner to the United States, and since the actual formation of the council the British government has followed Italy's example, as Lord Reading will also embrace both offices when he comes to America, to succeed both Ambassador Spring-Rice and Lord Northcliffe.

The establishment of the economic council has caused the Allies' high commissioners in the United States to lose much of their character as superior officers on account of the fact that they now are merely the agents of the council, which makes decisions and does practically all of the purely executive work heretofore done by the commissioners.

Rights of Pope at Peace Table Urged

Father McMahon Calls on Nations to Uphold the Claims of Rome

The Rev. Joseph H. McMahon, in the third of his series of addresses before the Catholic Library Association at Belmont's yesterday afternoon, chose as his subject "The Papacy as a Peacemaker."

"One of the most significant proofs," said Father McMahon, "of the present power of the Papacy is the fact that since the war began many nations which had no diplomatic relations with the Holy See have eagerly sought to establish them."

As proof of the power to accomplish things possessed by the Pope, Father McMahon pointed out that through his personal efforts he succeeded in materially alleviating the lot of prisoners of war, brought about an exchange of prisoners whenever their wounds were such as to prevent their further participation in the war, and he established a clearing house whereby relatives might learn the fate of relatives captured, obtained a promise from Germany to stop deportations and was able to raise the voice in plea for peace.

All this, Father McMahon declared, evidenced the place the Pope must take when the final peace conference is held.

He called on the United States and all the struggling powers to stand forth as champions of the rights of the Pope to participate in the peace moves.

Britain and Lenine Deal Through Unofficial Agent

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Arthur J. Balfour, Foreign Secretary, replying to a question in the House of Commons today, said that while Great Britain had not recognized the present administration in Russia as being the government of the Russian people, business relations with the Bolsheviks were being maintained through an agent acting under the direction of the embassy at Petrograd.

Mr. Balfour added that the government was about to establish similar unofficial relations with Maxim Litvinoff, the Bolshevik Ambassador at London.

Lenine Tells Policy in Turkish Armenia

PETROGRAD, Jan. 16.—An official decree issued to the people of Turkish Armenia, signed by the Bolshevik government, says that the government of Russia supports the rights of Armenians in Russia and Turkey, and the extent of their complete independence and the right to decide their own destiny.

The decree enumerates the guarantees necessary for this programme, namely, the immediate withdrawal of troops from the limits of Turkish Armenia, the organization of a militia by the Armenian people for police purposes, the transportation without hindrance of Armenian emigrants scattered throughout different countries as well as repatriation within Turkish Armenia of Armenians taken by force during the war by the Turkish authorities, and the organization of a central government of the people of Turkish Armenia in the form of a democratic council of deputies of Armenian people.

The decree also says that the council of the people's commissioners at the insistence on this and that the commission on Caucasian Affairs has been organized to assist the inhabitants of Turkish Armenia.

Y. M. C. A. Man Praises Morale of U. S. Troops

Nothing Wrong With Treatment or Equipment, Says Worker Back From Front

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 16.—"If any one in this country has got the notion that there is anything wrong with the morale, the treatment or the equipment of the American troops in France it would be well for him to dismiss the thought quickly, for there is no ground for such idle entertainment."

This was the situation of the American soldier in France, summed up by Clarence B. Wainwright, of the Y. M. C. A., who arrived here to-night on a French liner from France.

"All that to the contrary," he continued, "is the biggest sort of rot. I have been in the American front line trenches from November 1 to November 19 and I know how the men are and how they are being treated. They have plenty of clothing, plenty of blankets and plenty to eat."

"Where I was, the American trenches were only 500 yards from the Germans. They are all on their toes and eager to attack the Germans. The French know this better than any one else, and I am sure they are wondering how long such enthusiasm can possibly last without an outburst."

Bad Weather Delays Pershing's Supplies

Many Motor Trucks Ditched on Wet, Icy, Highways

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Tuesday, Jan. 15.—Icy roads turned into rivers for torrential streams flowing from the melting snows on the hills, together with a downpour of fine rain, combined today to make conditions the worst the American army has experienced since coming to France.

Though the zone of the army it was not infrequent to find the roads at places lined on either side with motor trucks which had been ditched. Mule-drawn transport trains, indeed, suffered the most from the conditions, the animals slipping on the icy road, beds and being unable to arise after falling and being unable to get out from trees were put under their feet.

American Dies of Wounds

Ivan Nock, of Baltimore, Was in French Foreign Legion

PARIS, Jan. 16.—Ivan Nock, a young engineer of Baltimore, one of the few Americans remaining in the French Foreign Legion, is said by a newspaper here to have died of the wound received last week in the attack made by the Foreign Legion in the neighborhood of Flirey.

Allen Mount, of St. Louis, another American member of the legion, has obtained a transfer to the American army.

Grenadier Ivan Nock was wounded several times, winning the French War Cross and two citations. A Paris dispatch on Sunday said that the Flirey attack had been wounded.

Allen Mount joined the Foreign Legion last April, and was proposed for the War Cross with Palm for taking thirty prisoners single-handed on the Verdun front.

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Germans Won't Kill Aviators as Spies

Report About Fliers Who Distribute Wilson's Speech Is Denied

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 16.—The Wolff Bureau, the German semi-official agency, denied a report that Entente aviators caught distributing President Wilson's message in Germany from the air would be shot as spies. It says: "The fact that the message obtained the widest publicity in all German newspapers suffices to brand the story as a ridiculous invention."

Italy's War Aims To Be Restated By Baron Sonnino

Not Opposed to Erection of Greater Serbia by Union With Jugo-Slavs

(Staff Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Official advice received here today state that Baron Sonnino, Italian Foreign Minister, soon will address the Italian Parliament on Italy's war aims. He will go much further, it was indicated, than he did on October 26 last, when he defined Italy's aspirations.

Contrary to a popular impression, it was learned today that Italy is not opposed to the erection of a greater Serbia through the union of the Jugo-Slavs (Southern Slavs) of Austria-Hungary with Serbia and Montenegro, although Italy will insist in any event upon certain measures respecting the eastern shore of the Adriatic as necessary for Italian safety.

Italy is now carrying on conversations with Serbia on the subject, the two countries seeking to come to an understanding that will be of mutual benefit.

The Italian press, dispatches state, is not completely assured of the extent to which President Wilson in his war aims address to Congress endorsed the Italian claims.

Italy requires the inclusion within Italian sovereignty of the Austrian territories inhabited by Italians; she opposes the cession of Trieste to Serbia, and demands certain arrangements in regard to the Dalmatian coast. She holds that Serbia must have access to the sea, and both Italy and Serbia appear to be agreed that Greece has no legitimate claim to lower Albania, which the Greeks claim upper Sprutza, which would make Greece an Adriatic power.

The Albanian question, temporarily solved by the institution of an Italian protectorate, will finally be solved by the Allied powers, and the absence of a definite and immediate determination of the problem is alleged to be one of the causes which have had the effect of delaying the actual entrance of Greece into the war.

Another serious cause, it was stated by a diplomat today, is the fact that, despite extreme measures which have been taken, the Venetian government has thus far failed to establish that degree of control over the people which is necessary before the nation can be trusted to make a decision of such importance.

20 Billions Demanded Of Italy by Germany

Wolf Leads Campaign to Force Rome to Make a Separate Peace

(The New York Tribune Foreign News Bureau)

A campaign is evidently being conducted in Berlin, says "The Morning Post," of London, with the object of browbeating Italy into following the example of Russia in seeking a separate peace. The campaign is led by Julius Wolf, the political economist, who says in the Berlin "Tag" that the success of the campaign in Italy has received German hopes of a war indemnity.

Germany's present demand, he says, is \$20,000,000,000, but it increases daily, as it represents Germany's economic losses in the war in the strictest sense of the words.

"The Italian success, he says, has placed as a pledge in Germany's hands fertile territory larger than the Kingdom of Saxony or Alsace-Lorraine. Italy, he remarks, is far from being the richest of Germany's enemies, but 'our foot is not on London or Birmingham, Calcutta, or San Francisco, Boston or Marseilles, and never will be.'"

The country between the Ionian and the Piave, however, he adds, is in German hands, and he is sure he is not exaggerating when he says that "no power on earth is able to drive us out of that position."

In view of the immense costs of the war to the German nation, Wolf announces that Germany with her allies will require from Italy the reimbursement of at least some of it, and Germany intends to keep her foot on the Italian soil until the tribute is fully paid.

Germany, it appears, does not desire to annex Italian territory, and is even ready to forego the tribute if Italy will inform the Italians that if they do not make a separate peace soon, and have to work for half a century to pay off the tribute Germany will demand of them.

Similar terms are to be offered to France, and the German professor writes: "Italy and France will no doubt come out of the war impoverished and politically degraded. In both countries, however, will still have land and people enough to produce what we demand from them in accordance with human and divine law."

Bill Makes Circulation Of False Reports a Felony

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—A bill, making it a felony to circulate false reports with the intention of interfering with the operation or success of American military or naval forces or obstructing the sale of Liberty bonds or securities, was introduced today by Senator Culberson and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill proposes a fine of \$10,000, with imprisonment for not more than twenty years.

Rumania and Bolsheviki Near Break

24-Hour Limit Set in Petrograd's Ultimatum Passed

Diplomats Force Release of Envoy

Lenine Yields to Demands; Receives Promise of Aid From Francis

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A break between Russia and Rumania is threatened at any moment, judging from the latest Petrograd dispatches received here. The Council of National Commissioners sent on Monday an ultimatum to Rumania demanding the release of Bolshevik representatives arrested there, the punishment of officials who ordered the disarming of Russian troops and guarantees for the future.

The ultimatum concluded: "Failure to reply within twenty-four hours to our demand will be regarded as equivalent to a rupture of relations, and we will take the most energetic military measures."

The period set was passed yesterday afternoon, and so far there are no indications that Rumania has replied to the ultimatum or that the Bolshevik government has taken any steps to carry out its threat.

Rumanian Envoy Released

On demand of the diplomatic corps in Petrograd, headed by the American Ambassador, the government yesterday afternoon released Constantine Diamandi, the Rumanian Minister, who was arrested with his staff on Sunday. Before this action was taken, however, Premier Lenine received assurances from Ambassador Francis that he would "send in his own name to the Rumanian government a declaration protesting against the acts of repression in Rumania against Russian soldiers," according to official announcement.

With the release of M. Diamandi the incident was regarded as closed by the diplomats. The question of Rumania's detention of Bolshevik representatives remains unsettled, however. The Russians were arrested on Monday, reports say, charged with striving to cause disaffection in the Rumanian army by preaching internationalism. M. Diamandi and his staff were accused of counter-revolutionary plots in connection with the disarming of Bolshevik regiments.

Diplomats Demand

Soon after the arrest of M. Diamandi the diplomats in Petrograd presented to Premier Lenine the following demand: "The undersigned diplomatic missions of all the nations represented in Russia, as follows: The United States, Japan, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Siam, China, Serbia, Portugal, Argentina, Greece, Brazil, Persia, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, and Great Britain, profoundly indignant because of the arrest of M. Diamandi, the Rumanian Minister, and affirming the unanimity of their sentiment on the subject of the violation of diplomatic immunity, respected throughout the ages by all governments, demand the immediate release of M. Diamandi and the other members of his legation."

Premier Admits Violation

The conference lasted forty minutes and was carried on behind closed doors. The Premier, who addressed the diplomats in French, is said to have admitted that the imprisonment of M. Diamandi was a breach of international law, but declared that it was designed as a protest against a similar breach on the part of Rumania in arresting and disarming Bolshevik representatives and troops. He told the diplomats that he himself could not order the release of the Rumanian Minister, but would lay the matter before the Council of People's Commissaries.

The council was immediately called into session and decided upon the release of M. Diamandi. Premier Lenine then gave the order by telephone to the commandant of the fortress of Peter and Paul, which resulted in the release of the prisoners.

The following statement was issued concerning this decision: "M. Lenine and the People's Commissaries only consented to the release of M. Diamandi when the American Ambassador proposed to send in his own name to the Rumanian government a declaration protesting against the acts of repression in Rumania against Russian soldiers. After this proposal had been accepted an order was issued for the release of M. Diamandi."

Before the Rumanian Minister was freed, however, a futile effort was made at the prison to force him to sign a document pledging his efforts to secure the release of the Bolshevik regiment, which was surrounded and disarmed by Rumanian troops, and the return of the regiment's arms. M. Diamandi refused the demand, declaring he would do nothing while a prisoner. He asked for his immediate release and an apology.

Incident Probably Closed

Some of the members of the diplomatic corps are inclined to believe the attempt to force M. Diamandi to sign a document pledging his efforts to secure the release of the Bolshevik regiment, which was surrounded and disarmed by Rumanian troops, and the return of the regiment's arms. M. Diamandi refused the demand, declaring he would do nothing while a prisoner. He asked for his immediate release and an apology.

The bullets shattered the windows of the automobile. A member of the party with the Premier was wounded slightly in the hand.

The attempt on the life of Premier Lenine was made just outside the hall in which he had been addressing 8,000 of the Red Guard who were going to the front. As his automobile swung through the crowd four shots flashed in the darkness. One of the bullets missed its mark by only a few inches and another lodged in the hand of a Swedish Socialist who was in the automobile.

Scores of arrests were made.

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Plot to Kill Lenine Fails in Petrograd; 4 Bullets Miss Him

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